



First in Deed



First U.S. Army

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Purple Heart Recipient Retires after 31 years of Combined Service

by MSG Thomas Bond

This month, First Army had the honor of retiring MAJ Ronald D. Johnson after 31 years of service that began as a Marine Corps private in 1968. Johnson retires as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Military Support to Civil Authorities (MSCA) Plans Officer, a position he held since March 1998.



photo by MSG Thomas Bond

LTG Riggs decorates retiring MAJ Johnson and bids him farewell from 31 years of service.

What is so special about Maj. Johnson retiring? Why write an article? Lots of people retire; however, because Johnson is one of the few First Army Vietnam-era veterans left on active duty, it is essential to acknowledge his dedicated service to our country.

As a Marine Corps private, Johnson

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First Army Personnel Serve As Volunteers At Local Elementary School

by Ms. Gayle Johnson



MAJ James Moody reads to a class in the Fountain Elementary School Library.

As the 1999-2000 school year commenced, students at Fountain Elementary School as well as soldiers and civilians from First U.S. Army Headquarters began to prepare for a new school year of working together. When asked to volunteer as mentors and role models for the children at this local elementary school, members of First U.S. Army were quick to respond. This partnership in education has existed

for five years and is an official Army Community Relations program. It is recognized by the First U.S. Army Commanding General, LTG John M. Riggs, as an "opportunity to give back to our community." The program is administered through First U.S. Army's Public Affairs Office.

The main focus of the volunteer effort at Fountain Elementary is the student-mentoring program. Each year, soldier and civilian volunteers from First U.S. Army commit one hour per week to work with individual students who need positive role models. The volunteers work under the umbrella of ARMS--Adult Role Models for Students. This program is jointly sponsored by the Clayton County Board of Education, The Clayton County Council of PTAs, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Clayton News/Daily.

The teachers and administrators at Fountain Elementary have expressed their appreciation to the First U.S. Army volunteers by sponsoring a volunteer recognition banquet at the end of each school year. Recently, Mrs. Susan Garnett, school counselor and director of the program

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1205th Efforts result in a Strong Track Record



photo courtesy of 94th RSC Public Affairs Office

SFC John Carbon on his Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) "Check-Ride." SFC Carbon was the first USAR Locomotive Engineer to become FRA certified.

By Eric J. Horwitz
94th RSC Public Affairs Office

The U.S. Army Reserve Command's 1205th Transportation Railway Operation Battalion, of Middletown, Conn., "trains" railway personnel at locomotive speed and efficiency. Consequently, its "track" record remains stellar.

Training, recruiting, retaining and community outreach combine synergistically, resulting in remarkable overall unit success under its impressed higher headquarters, the 94th Regional Support Command, at Devens, Mass. Imagine having 191 eager, efficient and enthusiastic soldiers, where only 168 slots are required. Consider the 24 soldiers -out of 24- that recently became MOS qualified in their fields, courtesy of a thorough internal training program. Think about a vital system involving "movers and shakers" in the railway industry - including railroad supervisors, management types, union, and government officials - opening doors for training site opportunities and creating recruiting opportunities.

The 1205th sells itself by appealing to the public as a slice of traditional Americana - the railroad and its glorious trains. At public events, the 1205th displays train equipment, educates on train technology, and takes attendees on scenic rides. It's a great

way for this unit to make its name known, while informing and entertaining the public.

"There are a lot of railroad buffs out there, and we get 'hits' from all over the country," said Lt. Col. Steve Schultz, commander of the 1205th. "This subject sparks a lot of interest. We have a lot of civilian interest in the unit. Our training areas dovetail into the community - soldiers get good training, and contribute to the community. We get visibility. We benefit by something that interests them (the community)."

The 1205th's mission is to plan, coordinate and supervise augmentation of railway transportation operations at the 597th TTG, Military Ocean Terminal, Sunnypoint - better known as MOTSU to unit members - or other designated Military Traffic Management Command (MTMC) installations, to meet operational requirements in support of railway terminal operations, train operations, and maintenance of way operations. The Battalion oversees the headquarters and Railway Sections A and B at Middletown, and Railway Section C at Southport, N.C. The 1205th is one of only two Army Reserve railway units in the U.S., the other being at the 757th in Wisconsin. Maj. Gen. William N. Kiefer, commander of the 94th RSC, has great respect for the unit's mission, and the results coming from its strong efforts.



photo courtesy of 94th RSC Public Affairs Office

1205th TROB Maintenance of Way Gang Team repairing track at Military Ocean Terminal, Sunnypoint (MOTSU), NC.

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began a short-tour in Vietnam as a machine gunner assigned to the 1st Marine Division in South Da Nang in 1969. Johnson completed three successful recon missions; unfortunately, while on a maneuver in a sector known as the Arizona Territory, an 81mm booby trap round detonated wounding Johnson in multiple locations. His actions that day earned him the Purple Heart, a battlefield promotion to Lance Corporal and a trip home. "My mother didn't believe any of this until I arrived home for her personal inspection," said Johnson.

After a short break in service, Johnson returned to active duty as an Army Specialist Fourth Class in the infantry. He held a few other jobs and Military Occupational Skills (MOS's) including one as an M60 tank crewman. Johnson received his BA from San Diego State University in 1978, entered OCS in 1979 and received his commission in the Transportation Corps. His other awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters and the Marine Corps Combat Action ribbon which is equivalent to the Combat Infantryman's Badge.



MAJ Johnson takes time out on the set of "Passing Glory" for a photo opportunity with Emmy Award winning actor Andre Braugher.

Johnson also has another noteworthy occupation. This talented soldier can be seen in such critically acclaimed movies as CBS's "Selma, Lord Selma", "Mama Flora's Family" starring Cicely Tyson, and in the TNT network movie "Passing Glory" with Andre Braugher. Johnson plans to continue pursuing his acting career so keep your eyes out for him and we wish him all the luck, "Break a Leg."

1205th Rail Roaders (cont.)



photo provided by 94th RSC Public Affairs Office

1205th TROB GP-10 Locomotives 4601 & 4602 on the Middletown Rail bridge over the Connecticut River, Middletown, CT

"The 1205th Rail Roaders have one of the most exciting missions in the Army Reserve," said Kiefer. "Their mission is technical, hands-on and requires fit leaders and soldiers who can think and plan the Army's railroad needs. I have been most impressed with the 1205th soldiers' desire to bring their talent, knowledge and skills to their community through parades, benefits and celebrations honoring this great country. The soldiers of the 1205th are the patriots of today, selfless soldiers serving their country."

Editor's Note: The 1205th TROB is an Army Reserve unit under the First U.S. Army area of responsibility.

From the CG's Desk



At the 11th Hour, on the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, "the guns fell silent" to end WWI. But we all know the guns have never really been silent. However, our nation has prospered because we have always had citizens such as yourselves willing to stand up and

answer the call of military service to our country. Yours is the legacy of sacrifice for a higher purpose. I challenge you not to hesitate to tell the story of our veterans...our military...national pride. We have a generation out there who know little of these sacrifices, service to country or what it really means. Young people sometimes lack a sense of history. They lack the anchor provided by a historical perspective. But what transcends the generation are values...the values that shaped America and the Army. These values are part of the very soul of our Veterans.



photo by MSG Thomas Bond

...97...98...99 and still going strong. Headquarters First Army personnel conducting their semi-annual AFPT.



photo by MSG Thomas Bond

Congratulations MG Raymond

In a recent ceremony, LTG Riggs and LTG (Ret.) Fisher pin the rank of Major General to the collar of BG Raymond. MG Raymond now moves on to the job of Deputy Commanding General for Reserve Components at FORSCOM.

School Volunteering (cont.)

for Fountain, spoke of the excitement of a student who has participated in the program for several years.

"She (the student) was so excited to receive her first ever honor role report card, she talks about her mentor all the time," said Garnett. The counselors and teachers have reported positive changes in the attitudes and behavior of students who participate in the student mentor program.

Dr. Jennelle Brady, Principal of Fountain Elementary School, is very excited about the presence of First U.S. Army Volunteers at Fountain. She is looking forward to a long and rewarding partner-in-education relationship with First U.S. Army.

In addition to serving as student mentors, First U.S. Army personnel act as guest readers, career day speakers, and field day coaches. MAJ James Moody is a regular volunteer guest reader. He has a very demanding and encompassing position as a member of Response Task Force-East.

When asked why he volunteers at Fountain Elementary, he replied "as a father of four boys, I understand how important it is to have the presence

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School Volunteering

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of a male figure to help form life-long impressions." Moody has always been involved in youth programs ranging from church, school, scouting, and sports. He remembers, as a child, having a number of positive male influences in addition to his father. Moody explains why he feels the reading program is important.

"I tell my sons that reading will allow you to visit and experience things without leaving home and feel as if you were actually there. Whenever I read, I try to make it fun for the kids and try to keep their attention for duration of the book." Moody's formula for reading (R-ead, with E-xcitement, A-ction, D-rama) has been a success.


Another of our guest readers, Ms. Beverly Willis of First U.S. Army's Information Management Directorate, agrees with the importance of any effort on the part of adults to encourage children and help them build skills. She feels that "children are the fruit of our labor". All of our volunteer readers agree that the feedback received through the giggles, smiles, and bright eyes of attentiveness of the children make them feel good.


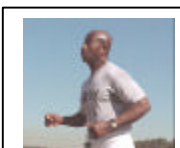



Regular contact with a caring adult is often the only extra support needed to make a real difference in the life of a young person. The men and women from First U.S. Army who volunteer are dedicated and goal oriented. They help the children of Fountain Elementary reach full potential as students and viable members of their community. Also, they demonstrate the Army cares about America's youth.



photo by MAJ Kevin Gainer

The First U.S. Army family lost a dear and wonderful friend this month. Ms. Loretta A. Ianni, Delaware's Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA), passed away on November 1st. Above Ms. Ianni poses with two Ft. Campbell soldiers from her home state. In general, CASAs promote civil/military liaison activities within their communities, monitor relations between the Army and the local civilian host facilities, and assist the Secretary of the Army in "telling the Army's story." We remember Ms. Ianni for her dedication to the job and for her compassion for the soldiers.





Soldiers and Civilians challenge the '99 Ft. Gillem Gallop.

photos by MSG Thomas Bond

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Published by First U.S. Army Public Affairs Office
LTC Brendan Wilson—Chief, Public Affairs
MAJ Kevin Gainer—Deputy PAO
MSG Thomas Bond—PAO SGM/Command Information/
"First In Deed" Editor
Ms. Karen Bradshaw—Public Information/Community
Relations
Mr. Dave Meaders—CASA Coordinator
Ms. Barry Bartley—CASA Asst. Coordinator
Ms. Gayle Johnson—PAO Assistant

First U.S. Army
Public Affairs Office
4705 N. Wheeler Drive
Forest Park, GA 30050-5000
DSN 797-7327 Comm. (404) 362-7327
Fax DSN 797-3101 Comm. (404) 362-3101